



DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

News Release

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

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For Immediate Release: October 23, 2009

DLNR HOLDS PUBLIC HEARINGS ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HAWAII ADMINISTRATIVE RULES RELATING TO "RECREATIONAL RENAISSANCE PLAN B"

HONOLULU – The Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) is inviting the public to attend a series of statewide public hearings during the first two weeks of November on proposed amendments to rules for state parks, boating and ocean recreation facilities, and forestry and wildlife areas.

The proposed rules changes are intended to support the department's Recreational Renaissance "Plan B," an innovative action plan to restore and preserve Hawai'i's small boat harbors and other ocean recreation facilities, state parks, and trails through improved maintenance and operations.

The immediate goals of Plan B are to keep harbors, parks and trails open, provide user-friendly customer services, and improve and increase needed repair and maintenance. The elements of the "Back to Basics" plan will support an improved quality of recreational facilities and services that the public and resources will benefit from.

"Plan B begins aggressive repair and maintenance, but is really only a small step to improving our state recreational facilities," said Laura H. Thielen, DLNR Chairperson. "For larger-scale capital improvements we'll need legislative approval, which the public can help support."

Due to decades of neglect and under-funding, Hawai'i's outdoor recreational facilities have fallen into disrepair. The Administration proposed a comprehensive and innovative "Recreational Renaissance" plan to repair, upgrade, and maintain these facilities statewide, but the plan was rejected by the Legislature.

(more)

DLNR, realizing that “business as usual” will mean Hawai‘i’s parks, beaches, trails, campgrounds, cabins, small boat harbors and ramps will fall further into disrepair, and environmental and cultural resources will be further degraded, is moving forward with Plan B to ensure that Hawai‘i’s recreational facilities remain safe and accessible for Hawai‘i’s residents and visitors.

The public hearings will begin with a brief presentation of the overall Recreational Renaissance Plan B, overview of the specific rule amendments, and then receive public testimony and comments.

State Park rule change highlights

Current rules only allow overnight accommodation reservations by mail or walk-in. Proposed rules amendments allow online camping reservations via the internet and payment by credit card, clarify some definitions and penalties.

Boating and Ocean Recreation rule change highlights

Proposed rule amendments to mooring rates, temporary mooring rates, and vessel registration fees.

Forestry and Wildlife rule change highlights – public shooting ranges

Presently there are very few public shooting ranges in Hawai‘i, and none on the islands of Hawai‘i and Kaua‘i. Proposed rule amendments will allow for the establishment and management of public shooting ranges statewide.

Forestry and Wildlife rule change highlights – wildlife sanctuaries

The State wildlife sanctuary system supports some of the most sensitive native wildlife and their habitats in the state, including rare and endangered birds, invertebrates, and plants. Current rules, have not been amended for nearly 30 years, meanwhile, the importance of sanctuaries in the overall conservation of native wildlife has increased. The proposed amendments are extensive so the department proposes to repeal the current rule entirely and adopt the new rules, which would improve management tools and add six new wildlife sanctuaries.

Public hearing schedule

All interested persons are encouraged to attend the public hearing to present relevant information and individual opinion for DLNR to consider. Copies of the draft rules are available online at www.hawaii.gov/dlnr/rules

The public hearings are scheduled as follows but not to exceed 2 hours:

- Kaua‘i: Tuesday, November 3, 2009 at 6 p.m.; Chiefess Kamakahalei Middle School Cafeteria, 4431 Nuhou St., Lihu‘e, HI 96766;
- Moloka‘i: Tuesday, November 3, 2009 at 6 p.m.; Mitchell Pau‘ole Center, 90 Aiona St., Kaunakakai, HI 96748;
- Hawai‘i: Tuesday, November 3, 2009 at 6 p.m.; Hilo State Office Building, Conference Room A, 75 Aupuni St., Hilo, HI 96720;
Wednesday, November 4, 2009 at 6 p.m.; Old Kona Airport Pavilion,

75-5480 Kuakini Highway, Kailua-Kona, HI 96740;
Maui: Wednesday, November 4, 2009 at 6 p.m.; Seaflight Building,
101 Ma'alaia Boat Harbor Rd., Ma'alaia, Maui, HI 96753;
Lana'i: Thursday, November 5, 2009 at 5 p.m.; Lana'i Senior Center,
309 Seventh St., Lana'i City, Lana'i, HI 96763;
O'ahu: Monday, November 9, 2009 at 6 p.m.; Jefferson Elementary School Cafeteria,
324 Kapahulu Ave., Honolulu, HI 96815.

Persons unable to attend or wishing to present additional comments may submit them to DLNR via mail or e-mail. All comments must be post-marked or e-mailed by Thursday, November 19, 2009.

Mail: Dept. of Land and Natural Resources
Attn: Recreational Renaissance Rules
P.O. Box 621
Honolulu, HI 96809

E-mail: RecreationalRenaissance@hawaii.gov

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30 second rip and read: The Department of Land and Natural Resources invites the public to attend statewide public hearings in the first two weeks of November on proposed amendments to its rules for state parks, boating and ocean recreation facilities, and forestry and wildlife areas. The rule changes are necessary to support Recreational Renaissance Plan B which aims to provide improved repair and maintenance, along with improved customer service such as online camping permits. More information on the rules is available at www.hawaii.gov/dlnr/recreate

Background:

The Recreational Renaissance Plan provides a comprehensive strategy to improve recreational facilities across the state, embrace the operational changes needed within DLNR to successfully repair its facilities, and provide regular and cost-effective maintenance, funded through a combination of new, non-tax revenues and limited, modest fees.

The immediate goals of the plan include:

- Adopting national model standards for maintenance schedules to upgrade park trails and small boat harbor standards, and reorganizing DLNR to maximize efficiency and professionalism in maintaining recreational facilities and spaces.
- Increasing repair and maintenance at public recreational facilities to prevent further degradation. The DLNR will identify repairs that will provide a temporary replacement of condemned facilities so people can maintain access.

- Developing an asset management program, a tool to assist the department in consolidating purchases for cost-efficiency, and managing the department’s scheduled maintenance and work orders for maximum efficiency.
- Improving user-friendly customer services. The DLNR recently put vessel registration on-line and current rule amendments propose a camping and lodging reservation system on-line and to allow payment by credit card. This change would serve local and global recreational visitors.
- Utilize revenue-generating properties under DLNR’s management to generate an additional \$12 million annually in new, non-taxpayer revenue from urban and industrial land leases to support debt service on capital improvements in State parks, harbors, hiking trails, boat ramps, and piers.

Additional information on the Recreational Renaissance Plan B may be found on the DLNR Web site at www.hawaii.gov/dlnr/recreate.

For more information news media may contact:
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